

St. Francis of Assisi Pastoral Council Minutes

Assisi Room of the Rectory

March 15, 2018

Members in attendance: Fr. John Dillon, Alicia Church, Debra Crone, Justin Fitzgerald, Arleen Hall, Anton Handono, Chris King, Daniel Koscinski, Bernie McGuire and Travis Tomon

Ex-officio members in attendance: Melissa Egan

On March 15, Fr. John Dillon presented to the Parish Pastoral Council the Archdiocese of Washington's pastoral plan for parishes to implement *Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)*, challenging members to begin thinking about how the apostolic exhortation on marriage and love can be disseminated to parishioners.

The document, *Sharing in the Joy of Love in Marriage and Family: A Pastoral Plan to Implement Amoris Laetitia*, was published two years after the Vatican released *Amoris Laetitia*, the post-synodal apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis addressing the pastoral care of families. The Pastoral Plan contains several reflections from Cardinal Donald Wuerl, including that "it is essential to recognize that our teaching is received by individuals according to their own situation, experience and life." This requires a ministry to "accompany others where they are."

After reading aloud sections of how various parish stakeholders can best accompany those in their orbits, Fr. John mentioned two resources that have posted videos on *Amoris Laetitia*. He asked council member Daniel Koscinski to form a subcommittee with others to discuss how the exhortation can be communicated to young people.

In other business, council member Alicia Church discussed some of the work of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council on which she serves. Her presentation included the sharing of several documents, including:

- A handout on *Archdiocesan Catholic Schools*, reporting that of 53 Catholic schools, 20 are in need of supervision. Currently, there are four schools – Our Lady Star of the Sea in Solomon's Island, Holy Family School in Hillcrest Heights, Academy of St. Matthias in Lanham, and Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington DC – requiring consultations, making them priority schools.
- A handout on *Fulfilling the Mandates of the Archdiocesan Synod*, reporting on how the results of the Synod held from June 2013 until May 2014 are being implemented in various areas. Future focus areas include promoting the Capitol Catholic app and link to web site; increasing the number of Catholics advocating on issues important to the church; and boosting workshops on what a mission-oriented parish looks like through supporting new initiatives with seed money and resources.

Church also reported that the archdiocesan Ad-Hoc Racism Task Force, which recently executed plans to create memorials honoring African-American men, women and children anonymously buried in archdiocesan and parish cemeteries, would become a steering committee.

Council member Chris King asked Church if the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council had also discussed the parish's Neighbor-to-Neighbor Team, a group of parishioners working to engage new people moving into the area surrounding St. Francis of Assisi Parish and individuals and families who have left.

In a separate discussion, Church also noted that graduates of St. Francis' Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Ministry may need to start their own small group, so they can continue their faith formation in their existing community.

In other business, King discussed the status of planning for the launch of the Indicators of Vitality Survey on April 8. In a discussion regarding the wording of questions, she said that church deacons requested the parish raise the bar, aiming for questions that asked about "vibrant" liturgies, as opposed to "adequate" ones.

Pastoral council members reviewed the questions in each section of the draft survey, wordsmithing several of them. King then said the final launch would require the following:

- A letter from Fr. John introducing the survey.
- A promotional plan beginning March 24 to include publicity on the Information Monitor, through Flocknote and in pulpit announcements.
- The production of paper copies of the survey.

Regarding the February discussion on the architectural feasibility study to study potential church facility improvements, council member Bernie McGuire stated the importance for the parish to develop messaging about the project.